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GIVE A LITTLE...

KOHN PARK FUNDRAISING PROJECT IS UNDERWAY

— PAGE 5 —

PHOTO OF CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR DAVID BUNTE POINTING TO THE PLANS FOR KOHN PARK WITH BEVERLY KOHN BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Grand Beach Village Council discusses draft petition for bike crossing

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council viewed a draft petition regarding the planned Marquette Greenway bike crossing at the Amtrak railroad tracks at their Wednesday, June 19, meeting.

Construction has begun on the nonmotorized path, which runs alongside Grand Beach Road from Indiana before crossing the railroad tracks and moving onto U.S. Highway 12 toward New Buffalo.

The village council had adopted a resolution requesting the installation of a traffic signal on U.S. 12 at the crossing "for the health, safety and welfare of everyone traversing the AmTrack railroad crossing, which provides access to the Village of Grand Beach on Grand Beach Road."

The New Buffalo Township Board had adopted a similar resolution.

Regarding the PASER Report that ranked the roads in order of need of repair, Bracewell said that he and superintendent Bob Dabbs met with Reith and Reilly Construction and went over the paver map. A meeting will be held with the road committee, and paving will be done on village roads sometime from mid-September to mid-October.

A key area will be Grand Beach Road from the bridge east to Robin Lane.

He said the emphasis is on Grand Beach Road because "more and more cyclists will be going down there" due to the Marquette Greenway.

In a meeting that was held with representatives from INDOT, village president Harry Walder said that INDOT is overseeing the construction of the greenway from the Indiana border to where Grand Beach Road crosses the railroad tracks.

Councilmembers approved paying Donkersloot and Sons to repair or replace the pumphouse intake line for a cost not to exceed $100,000.

Councilmember and golf and pro shop commissioner Blake O'Halloran said that he's starting to see some wear and tear on the grass "as far as some of the brown coming out" due to the heat. Per the temporary watering system that's been set up, the course isn't getting watered on days where rain is being forecasted due to the village having to pay for the water.

O'Halloran said the irrigation system needs to be replaced, as no water gets into the roughs. Clay Putnam from Serviscape said that the village has a single-road irrigation system that runs right down the center of the fairways. Since the sprinklers just reach to the edge of the fairways, the rough's "not going to receive any water from the irrigation," he said and certain locations in the fairways on the edges aren't going to receive it as well.

Councilmembers approved a resolution that adopted all the budgets for fiscal year 2024-202 and approved the adoption of the village's millage rate factor for 2024.

Council members approved awarding $8,924 to Wolverine Electrical regarding exterior lighting on Village Hall.

Councilmembers approved awarding On the Side Excavating $1,700 to replace the two panes of glass in the kitchen.

Councilmembers approved a $700 one-time expense for the Welcome Committee for supplies and to authorize an annual expense not to exceed $500 for new packets.

The appointments for the Construction Board of Appeals of Eric Derucki, Richard Kubsch and Mike Elliot, who will be paid $75 per meeting, were approved.

The replacement of the garage doors at the maintenance building at a cost of $19,722, payable to MC Doors in Michigan City, was approved.

The formation of a Police Station Study Committee, which includes members Harry Walder and Mike Elliot from Grand Beach and Mike Botehlo and Mike Mumper from Michiana, was approved.

A resolution in support of the Great Lakes Coalition beach nourishment was adopted.

The purchase and installation of up lights on the columns in the upstairs room at Village Hall not to exceed $1,250, was approved. Councilmembers discussed using something to secure the lights.

The purchase/planting of flowers and bushes at the retaining wall not to exceed $1,000 was approved.

@ the 1914 club, Ricketts can't keep his eyes off an unshaven, curly-haired, L.A. hat wearing European — he's never seen in his club, ignoring him, dripping Louis Vuitton. *— Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

New face in charge at Pioneer Land

BY STAN MADDUX

The popular Pioneer Land at the La Porte County Fairgrounds has a new leader.

Darla Quinn has moved up from treasurer to president of Pioneer Land as a result of a majority vote last month by more than 60 members of the 1840s style village.

Quinn, a La Porte County native and volunteer at Pioneer Land for the last 22 years, is the third new person to hold that position since the 2022 death of Pioneer Land founder and long-time president Dick Reel.

"I want to resolve all of the conflicts that we've been having and just be able to move forward with Dick Reel's ideas," she said.

"I want to resolve all of the conflicts that we've been having and just be able to move forward with Dick Reel's ideas," she said.

Pioneer Land member Mark Parkman said the friction was simply over "differences of opinion" on how things should be done.

Parkman emphasized all of the Pioneer Land members are on the same page, though, in their desire for what some people consider a magical place to continue flourishing.

"They're doing it for the right reasons. With Darla Quinn being elected, we'll just have to see what happens. I think she'll do fine," he said.

Pioneer Land with more than a dozen buildings like a blacksmith shop, general store, one room schoolhouse and log cabin is a huge attraction during the fair and other times when it opens during the year.

The village, which doesn't charge admission, often draws a few thousand people in early December when it opens as a weekend kick-off to the Christmas season.

Pioneer Land also opens for school tours.

Quinn said she will carry on with Reel's vision, which included using Pioneer Land to provide children a glimpse of life as it was back in the day and a wholesome source of entertainment while roaming the grounds.

Children during their visits have free access to wooden stilts and old fashioned games such as washer toss they can play with their families.

"It's a learning device. He would do anything for kids and youth and we're there to preserve that and maintain that for the future years," she said.

More than 100 volunteers dress like Pioneers doing an assortment of things like wood working, crafting tools and other products from steel, manning a camp fire, cooking and tending to a vegetable garden when the village is open.

Their labor of love is often returned by people whose yearly visits to Pioneer Land are now a tradition passed on to their children and other family members or friends.

"We have people that show up year after year after year and have taken it to heart. They've loved it their whole lives and I want to continue that," Quinn said.

Pioneer Land began with construction of the log cabin in 1995.

The cost of building all of the structures was paid for with donations and money raised from the annual ham and bean dinner and auction during the fair.

Funds from the dinner and auction now go strictly for building maintenance.

Many of the items offered during the auction such as quilts, knives and rugs are made by the Pioneer Land volunteers.

This year's fair is scheduled July 6-13.

The ham and bean dinner at the log cabin scheduled July 7 from 5-7 p.m. comes with cornbread, homemade pie and drink.

Quinn said chicken and noodles will be served for people who prefer that over ham and beans.

Each serving costs $10.

Quinn said more than 700 meals were served last year.

She replaced Merle Miller, who served as president after Dana Conboy, who was Reel's handpicked successor, resigned.

Action speaks louder than words but not nearly as often.
— Mark Twain

Beverly Kohn stands with a picture of her husband, Jerry, by the sign for the future park

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Kohn Park rendering

Guests gather at the site of the future Kohn Park

Kohn Park fundraising project is underway

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

According to Beverly Kohn, there's no doubt in anyone's mind that her husband, Jerry, loved Sawyer.

Now, with the launch of Chikaming Township's Kohn Park fundraising project, that love for the community will spread to those who will visit and inhabit it for years to come.

"It's a special legacy for a special guy," Beverly said at the fundraiser's official kick-off event, which took place at the future site of the park at 5844 Sawyer Road Friday, June 21.

The property was the site of the former fire station, which has since been torn down. The Kohns paid for its demolition and then donated it to the township along with an adjacent parcel of land.

Plans for the park include landscaping, a sculptural shade structure, accessible seating and amenities, a children's interactive music station, a bike maintenance station, plenty of greenspace, an area for dogs and, in the center, a gazebo that will host events such as music, entertainment and a farmers market.

Beverly said that she's impressed at the extensive plans for the project, which has a goal of $660,000.

"He just wanted something that everyone could use for the dogs, people with kids and people walking by, who just need to stop and take a break and want to get some food to go," she said.

Gerald Edward Kohn, or Jerry, as he was known to everyone, passed away last October.

He established Corvette Central, which sells Corvette parts all over the world, in Sawyer in 1975.

He was also a founding member of the Friends of New Troy, participated on the Galien River Sanitation Department board and the horizon Bank board, was involved in Chikaming Township politics and helped mentor and finance the area's burgeoning business scene.

"Corvette Central employed so many of our local residents and supported so many families throughout the course of the past 25, 30 and 40 years... From the township's perspective, to be able to honor and support Bev and his legacy with something that will be here well past our primes here and then we can leave for generations to come is something we're extra proud of, something we're extra gracious for and we're really looking forward to it," Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said.

Bunte said the township has already submitted an approximately $330,000 matching grant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that gets awarded in the late fall and early winter.

Donations toward the future Kohn Park, which also includes different levels of donations, can be made at https://www.chikamingtownship.org/parks-kohn-park.

Bunte said he wants the community to say the following about the planned park: "I helped build this."

"That's what a community does, that's what a community is all about and I want you to be proud of it and I hope you will be when the project is completed," he said.

The park will be incorporated into the planned streetscape for downtown Sawyer, which is also undergoing a facelift.

Bunte said that the linear park, which is continuing to grow along Red Arrow Highway, will connect even more people to Kohn Park.

On June 20, he said that the county had approved the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for around $1.4 million to complete the trail from Lakeshore Road south to Berrien, which is scheduled to be done this fall.

"So by next spring, it will be completed and we will have the entire trail done from Sawyer down to Union Pier and south now down to Route 12 in New Buffalo Township...That, to get done in four years, is a huge accomplishments," he said.

John Chipman, a former chair of the Chikaming Township Planning Commission, said that, through the linear park, people are being connected to the area's "hamlets:" Union Pier, Lakeside, Harbert and Sawyer.

Kohn Park will enhance the hamlet that is Sawyer and beyond, he said.

"This becomes a centerpiece for Sawyer and all of Chikaming Township - a place to gather with family and friends, create memories and share the spirit of what our township is truly about," he said.

Like Lakeside and Triangle Park in Lakeside and Harbert Community Park in Harbert, Chikaming Township Parks Director Joe Martin said that Kohn Park will be the gathering place for Sawyer.

"It's going to be a meeting spot for hikers, bikers, coffee drinkers, there's going to be a music station that's really exciting for acoustic guitar players and ensembles - it's just going to be an anchor for Sawyer that's going to be a tremendous asset for all of Chikaming Township," he said.

WOMEN DEFEND CHOICE TWO YEARS SINCE REPEAL OF ROE VS. WADE

Several women with signs declaring support for abortion rights stood outside the downtown La Porte courthouse Monday, June 24.

The protest was on the two-year anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe vs. Wade, a ruling in 1972 that made abortion a constitutional right.

Cindy Torgesen of La Porte said whether to have an abortion should be left up to women to decide.

She said one of the purposes for the protest was to try and keep the rights of women from eroding further.

Torgesen encouraged females "to stand up for themselves and their rights and realize they are created equal."

Abortion is now up to states to decide and some have chosen to outlaw it all together even if the pregnancy resulted from a sex crime.

"I don't feel that it's right for a 12 or 13 year old girl who's molested and impregnated that she should be further traumatized and forced to carry that child to term," she said.

"I think that it should come down what you feel is best for you as an individual. That is what is fair," said Janie Blower also of La Porte.

The half dozen women holding pink signs during their march also took a stand on issues like equal pay. — STAN MADDUX

Huge increase forecast in Michigan cherry production

BY STAN MADDUX

A bumper crop of tart cherries is forecast in Michigan but not in southwest part of the state hurt more by cold temperatures.

Many growers in Berrien County report anywhere from a decent or below average crop to a near total loss.

Most of the gains projected by USDA in the tart cherry yields is from the west central and northwest portion of the state's Lower Peninsula where most of the Michigan crop is traditionally grown.

Historically, southwest Michigan represents about 20 percent of the state's tart cherry production.

This year, about 10 percent of Michigan's tart cherry yields will come from that region, which was more negatively impacted by a January freeze and spring frost.

Jay Jollay, who has about 150 acres of trees in production near Coloma, said his tart cherry numbers will be down a bit from last year.

"I would say the crop is kind of a medium to an average-sized crop," he said.

Sherri Prillwitz said two consecutive nights of a hard frost in April at her fruit farm in Eau Claire left her with only about 15 percent of a normal cherry crop.

"In this part of the country, anybody I know that grows cherries they don't have the crop they normally do," she said.

Michigan, the nation's leading producer of tart cherries, is projected by USDA to yield 182 million pounds of tart cherries or 37 percent higher than last year in the state.

An unusually mild winter causing trees to bloom early resulted in some frost damage to the crop but warmer temperatures in May along with adequate moisture improved tree growth and fruit development, USDA said.

According to USDA, there was also good pollination.

Nikki Rothwell, an extension specialist at Michigan State University, said she agrees with the forecast not just because yields this year look to be excellent.

There were fewer cherries statewide last year because of frost damaging more of the blossoms on the trees.

"We have a better crop," she said.

Dave Kludy described his tart cherry trees in Shelby as "absolutely loaded."

He expects his tart cherry yields to be closer to 30 percent higher than last year while predicting a 20 percent drop in his number of sweet cherries.

Kludy, who has a few hundred acres of trees in the west central part of the state, said his tarts were protected from the frost when it hit this year because weren't in bloom yet.

"We're going to have a big crop," he said.

Cherry growers throughout the state appear to be harvesting a week or two earlier than normal because of the unusually mild winter causing the trees to bloom much sooner.

Despite her lost yields, Prillwitz said she still has plenty of cherries for u-pickers but turnout suffered from recent 90 degree temperatures and customers not realizing this year's crop is ripening much sooner.

Kludy, whose cherries are sold primarily wholesale, said he also had to start picking much sooner than normal this year.

"I've been growing cherries for 50 years. I've never in my life seen it this year. This is crazy early. We're a solid two weeks or more ahead of schedule," Kludy said.

Rothwell said quality of the Michigan crop this year could be an issue.

She said the skin on some of the cherries is cracking because of the fruit swelling from the wet conditions in recent months.

The splitting of the skin leaves the inside of the cherries vulnerable to infection especially in warm, humid conditions.

"We're seeing quite a bit of disease, so far, this year," she said.

Rothwell said one reason for the drop in production in the southern part of the state was conditions actually being colder there during the winter than up north.

She said southwest Michigan, overall, still fared pretty well considering 18 million pounds of tart cherries are projected to be harvested when the maximum based on the number of trees is about 25 million pounds.

According to USDA, about 75 percent of the tart cherries produced in the nation come from Michigan.

Washington is the top producing sweet cherry state.

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SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board view updated Bison Preserve site plan

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education saw a refined site plan of the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD), Bison Preserve, at their Monday, June 24, meeting.

Ed Gausselin from Bradford Growth Partners, the developer, said that HKM Architects was retained to incorporate the suggestions from the public into the new site plan.

Among the changes are decreasing the overall site density from 99 units to 86 and a 20-foot buffer for the wetlands to protect during construction and for additional wildlife crossing.

The plan also contains a shift from a single building layout (three-bedroom/1,800 square feet/two-car garage) to a variety of building layouts, which range in size from 1,275 to 1,800 square feet/two- to three-bedrooms/one- to two-car garage. Gausselin said that this will allow "flexibility depending on what the market presents."

EGLE must review and permit any areas of wetlands, which can be a lengthy process. The phasing will "accommodate the construction for the majority of the units but we'll stop at where the creek is that leads essentially from west to east that flows into the conservation area and that will allow us to pull all of the construction outside of the realm of the wetlands, which will eliminate our need, at least preliminarily, to go back to EGLE and get permitted for the impacted wetlands," Gausselin said

"That will be during Phase Two so it will allow us, essentially, to begin Phase One and then, while we're under construction with Phase One, we'll go through the lengthy process with EGLE," he said.

Other changes include moving the cluster of mailboxes close to the Lubke entrance to provide safer crossing, walking paths being relocated to the road to keep pedestrians away from the adjacent properties and bioswales being added as an environmentally friendly way to deal with stormwater.

Gausselin said they've been working with three contracting companies to get "pretty solid pricing," which will be incorporated into the final budget and proforma so they can do the various applications to additional people for subsidies, including tax increment financing, as well as to their lenders.

He said they hope to get all the information packaged and ready to go and sent to the various parties within the next week.

The final preliminary site plan, and unit count will be incorporated into a PUD application for the September meeting.

Board members amended the 2023-2024 Budget.

Business manager Pano Arvanitis said total revenues for the General Fund were $21.8 million, with local revenue being $17.3 million, state being $2.9 million, federal being $1.5 million and other local finances being $252.502.

Regarding General Fund expenditures, total appropriated funds were $21.7 million.

Board members heard updates on district wide technology and athletics.

Technology director Jacob Stella said the district's website got a complete overhaul. There were 13 BenQ interactive panels that were purchased for the middle/highschool for the 23-24 school year and all Promethean Panels were moved to the elementary school. This summer, six BenQ panels will be purchased for the middle/high school and one Promethean Panel for the elementary.

A new visitor management system called Visitor Aware was installed, which includes an iPad at each main entrance used to scan driver's licenses to perform a quick background check for anyone that enters the building. Driver's license only needs to be scanned once per year and then the program uses facial recognition for the rest of the school year.

This summer, all doors will be upgraded to use a keycard system. All of the cameras in the middle/high school will be replaced, with the addition of more to cover the outdoor areas.

Athletic director Matt Johnson said that, for the 2023-2024 school year, out of 166, 122 participated in athletics, with 41% participating in one sport, 43% in two and 16% in three.

With regards to coaching, there are 47 positions and 35 coaches (including the co-op) and 45 positions that the New Buffalo Athletic Department directly oversees.

The district has 14 total sports that are offered, with Johnsona adding that the school is the only one its size in Michigan "that has the sport offerings that we do."

Regarding the athletic handbook, Johnson said that eligibility has always been based on a 2.0 GPA, with cumulative starting the season and in-semester finishing it; however, this will change to being a 1.5 GPA and three-week check starting in 2024-2025 due to New Buffalo merging with River Valley.

This past year, 108 out of the 112 athletes had no eligibility issues.

Regarding the New Buffalo/River Valley Sports Merger, Johnsons said that girls softball had merged this past spring and girls basketball and golf were on track for next year.

The athletic department is upgrading the track hurdles. A new trophy case has been set up and a new touchscreen record board is being installed.

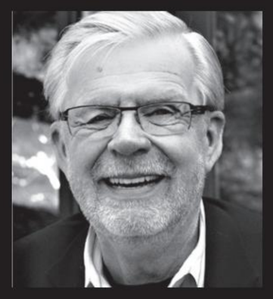
Board members approved the operating millage renewal proposal to be placed on the Nov. 5 ballot, which will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews the millage that will expire with the 2025 tax levy.

The following tuition rates for new student enrollment for 2024-2025 has been set at $7,500 annually/additional child $5,000. Tuition students currently enrolled are not subject to rate increase.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



As usual, it's been a very busy week in sports.

Major League Baseball is moving along with the season just a couple of games shy of being half way over.

The Cubs and Sox continue to flounder but the big news was the passing away of probably the best baseball player I've ever seen, Willie Mays. I watched him play quite often in the old days when you could watch all the Cub games on WGN.

In 1954, a mere 70 years ago, Willie made an unbelievable catch in the first game of the World Series.

I've watched a whole lot of baseball games since then and never seen a better catch. Willie Mays, the "Say Hey Kid," probably the best baseball player ever, RIP.

In Chicago, the Cubs unveiled a new statue, this one honoring Ryne Sandberg. Ryne is another in a long line of Cub players that were great on the field and good men off the field.

The College World Series has been fun to watch. Tennessee and Texas A&M are battling evenly and the winner was decided on Monday, with Tennessee winning.

Locally, I walked down to the neighborhood park and saw two little league all star teams battle to a 12-12 tie.

Who knows, maybe I witnessed a future major leaguer.

The Stanley Cup finals have been a study in contrasts. The Florida Panthers won the first three games, then the Edmonton Oilers turned it around and won the next three games. The deciding game will took on Monday, and it promised to be a ding-dong-dilly of a battle.

The Panthers won the Cup, keeping Lord Stanley in America, again.

Another study in contrast was the Travelers golf tournament.

Scottie Scheffler and Tom Kim were on the 18th green competing for the championship, when half a dozen protesters ran onto the green with smoke bombs protesting climate change.

I don't think that the two gentlemen playing golf have had, or could have much influence on climate change and I also think that the protesters knew they would draw more attention to themselves than climate change. I don't believe that protesters generally help their cause, but I wouldn't be upset if I was wrong.

The NBA crowned the Boston Celtics as their champion for the 18th time. They seem to be a great organization.

Since Michael Jordan left after winning six championships the Bulls have been shut out, and it looks like it's going to be awhile before they win their next one.

This week they traded Alex Caruso, one of the team's best players.

When a team underperforms, shaking things up is necessary, but I sure hated to see Caruso go.

He's one guy that gives everything he's got every minute he's on the court.

Finally, the Bears beat the Packers.

Okay, they beat them in a game of bags (also called cornhole), but they beat them just the same.

W.H. Auden said, "We are all here on earth to help others; What on earth the others are here for I don't know."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

If you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit.
— Banksy

Youth fair small animal registration is approaching

The deadline for registration of small animals to be exhibited at the 2024 Berrien County Youth Fair is Monday, July 1.

Small animals include rabbits, poultry, pocket pets, dogs and cats. One photo of cats and two photos of dogs (one front view and one side view of the dog) shown at the fair must be provided at registration with the name of the animal. In addition, dog photos must also be labeled with the exhibitor number, dog name, age, breed, sex and if altered or not, and cat photos must be labeled with the cat's name and exhibitor number.

As a reminder, a limited number of exhibitor handbooks and entry forms are available at all Berrien County Public libraries, Baroda City Mills in Baroda; Country Heritage Credit Union in Buchanan; Family Farm and Home in Benton Harbor; Tractor Supply Company and Rural King in Niles; Seifert's Farm Supply in Three Oaks and Tractor Supply Company in Stevensville. Exhibitor handbooks are also available online at www.bcyf.org. Exhibitor entry forms and handbooks are available at the Fair Office as well.

Registration is open to any Berrien County resident, ages 5 to 20 years of age. The exhibitor age is as of Jan. 1, 2024. Online registration is now open. Once registered (each year you will create a username and password – it can be the same as last year's), exhibitors can return to the program and add more entries up until each entry deadline. Families can register under one email and password. The exhibitor's printed email confirmation will serve as the traditional yellow copy of the entry form and is required on entry day, just as the yellow copy of the traditional entry form is. The link for online entries can be found at www.bcyf.org. Entry forms may be turned in any time up to the appropriate deadline date. Entry forms may be brought to the Fair office between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday on or before July 1, postmarked on or before July 1 or placed in the drop box outside the Fair office after office hours until midnight July 1 .

Other upcoming deadlines include the Berrien County Youth Fair King and Queen contest, which is open to current BCYF exhibitors ages 16-19. The King and Queen contest deadline is July 17. The BCYF Prince & Princess contest registration (which is open to exhibitors ages 9-12) deadline is July 17. Applications can be picked up at the Fair office or online at www.bcyf.org. Registration for all still exhibit areas (crafts, flowers, horticulture and home economics) is Aug. 1. Registration for still exhibits is open to Berrien County residents, ages 5 to 20 years of age. No late entries will be accepted. Questions can be addressed by contacting the Fair office at 269-473-4251.

Berrien County Youth Fair dates are Aug. 12-17, with the theme being "Explore Planet Fair." — STAFF REPORTS

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‘Founders’ of Neighbor by Neighbor honored at annual brunch

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

For the second year, Neighbor by Neighbor honored those who have witnessed the “hidden poverty” in the area and helped the organization meet the needs of neighbors at the Founder’s Day Brunch Saturday, June 22.

Supporters gathered at the home of Kirk Amptmeyer and Gary Allen in Three Oaks, where they could bid on live auction items or make a direct donation to the organization during a “paddle raise.”

This year’s honoree line up was Megan Bolinder, Peg Kohring Cichon, Peggy Lefevre and Harbert Community Church.

Before coming onboard as Neighbor by Neighbor’s first resource and referral specialist in 2017, Neighbor by Neighbor Executive Director Keri Haskins said Bolinder volunteered at mobile food pantries.

In her first year with the organization, she was tasked with tracking and reporting community needs. While many of those needs were “quantifiable,” such as housing, utility and food assistance, other significant, “seemingly immeasurable” ones were loneliness and isolation.

“She believes Neighbor by Neighbor continues to strive to help, support and empower individuals with dignity, and her hope is that the trajectory of Neighbor by Neighbor would not only promote generosity by neighborly acts, but also foster blurring the lines of classism so that people could be seen and known beyond their economic need,” Haskins said.

Kohring Cichon joined the organization as a 10 hour a week staff person in January 2020.

When the pandemic hit a couple months later, she expanded Neighbor by Neighbor’s fundraising activity and the “scope of assistance” that was provided to clients to meet the needs of the poor and the “unhoused,” Haskins said.

The effort was worth it: In Kohring Cichon’s three years helming the organization, the annual budget had expanded from $10,000 to over $50,000 and the client loan increased from 30 to over 1,200. The organization also became a standalone nonprofit, opened its office in Union Pier, hired three new staff members and secured significant grants from Berrien Community Foundation, The Pokagon Fund, United Way and individual donors.

“Her enduring stamp on Neighbor by Neighbor was a move from providing critical band aid assistance to a focus on the necessities required to help the clients reclaim successful management of their lives,” Haskins said.

Lefevre discovered Neighbor by Neighbor through her involvement with Church of the Mediator in Harbert since its inception.

Serving as board treasurer let her “witness the amazing growth in our ability to help those in this area who need our support,” Haskins said.

In 2018, Harbert Community Church provided “organizational support” when Neighbor by Neighbor needed a home.

“From the beginning, the goal was to make Neighbor by Neighbor a community partnership, and they accepted the task of raising Neighbor by Neighbor toward independence…Six years later, they are delighted to see how far this vision has become a reality and feel blessed to see how far Neighbor by Neighbor has come” Haskins said.

Five staff members have been members of the church’s congregation. In addition to pastor Jerry Fast, two church members have served on the board, while others have provided financial support.

Attainable housing continues to be a concern, with 82% of all the financial support the organization provides to clients being housing related.

David Ball, vice chair of the Neighbor by Neighbor Board of Directors, said they’re dealing with over 19 homeless families and handing out 15 bags of food a month on average.

“It’s nothing that none of us can do alone but it’s something we all have to work together - it’s neighbor working with neighbor to really think how we can make affordable housing for all those here in Harbor Country,” Ball said.

Neighbor by Neighbor is located at 16170 Red Arrow Highway, Suite C7, in Union Pier.

More information can be found by calling 269-231-0648 or visiting www.eighborbyneighbor.org.

Executive Director Keri Haskins introduces the founders

David Ball tells guests about Neighbor by Neighbor

Gary Allen and Kirk Amptmeyer welcomed guests to their home

Megan Bolinder, Peg Kohring Cichon, Jay Fast and Peggy Lefevre with their plaques

Guests congregate around the pool

Richard Clark with Megan App

LAKESIDE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE ON TAP FOR NEXT WEEK

The Lakeside Association will hold its annual Fourth of July parade at noon Thursday, July 4.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this celebration. All marchers and vehicles will line up at 11:45 a.m. on Pier Street at the intersection with Lake Shore Road.

Walkers and bikers will gather on the lake end of Pier Street at the intersection with Lake Shore Road. Adult driven cars and trucks will line up on Lake Shore Road northeast of the intersection with Pier Street, and will follow the parade marchers.

Everyone is encouraged to wear red, white and blue or patriotic costumes. Have your family decorate bicycles, strollers, wagons and wheelchairs. Leashed pets festooned in red, white and blue can take part. Bring a kazoo and be a part of the kazoo band. The only requirement for band membership is one must be able to walk and play at the same time.

Those who wish to watch the parade should stand along Pier Street. For safety reasons, parking will be prohibited in the center of Lakeside and along the parade route. Please encourage friends and neighbors not to drive through the area during the parade.

Make this Fourth of July special by being a part of this fun, annual Lakeside tradition.

— STAFF REPORTS

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Attendees speak at the meeting

Butch Frey and Elise Ferguson present on the proposed plant

More questions raised over proposed natural gas plant

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Concerned residents packed the former Three Oaks Elementary School over a proposed renewable gas plant (RNG) in Three Oaks Township at the township's Planning Commission meeting Tuesday, June 25.

Forest Lawn Landfill, Inc., which closed in 2017, is requesting a special land use (SLU) permit to allow for a renewable natural gas (RNG) plant in an Agricultural Rural Residential District at South Basswood Road in the township. Per a handout, the BP-acquired Archaea Energy, Inc. is proposing the development of an RNG facility to process landfill gas being produced by the neighboring Republic Services Landfill for commercial use.

The proposed RNG plant would be constructed and operated by Archaea and owned by Lightning Renewables, LLC, a joint venture between Archaea and Republic Services.

At the June meeting, Elise Ferguson, director of RNG project development at Archaea, said that, per the EPA, it's required that there be a gas collection system that takes all the gas coming off the landfill and to send it to a flare, where it can be "safely disposed of." She said that Archaea is proposing to connect to the "sustaining flare system and then turn it into a usable product."

"So we'll separate out the CO2s, the H2s, the BOCs as well as the nitrogen from the methane to make a usable product," Ferguson said.

It's a process that, per the EPA, reduces CO2 emissions by 43%, she added.

The end result will be a "97 percent pure pipeline quality spec product that is useful."

"We then compress that product and send it into a pipeline, so all that stuff we take out - the BOCs, the CO2s, the nitrogen, the stuff that's left over from the landfill gas - we send that to a thermal oxidizer so it can be safely disposed of," she said.

Archaea would be leasing the property for 20 years from Republic, which owns the landfill.

Per a letter that some residents received from Archaea, due to comments received from the public at the Planning Commission's February meeting, Archaea "conducted environmental assessments and sound studies" that led to some changes to the proposed RNG project.

The plant's footprint has been reduced by 40%. Noise walls will be installed, and per the letter, "the loudest noise level (comparable to an air conditioning unit) was reduced from 1100 feet to approximately 280 feet from the plant."

At the June 25 meeting, Butch Frey, who handles external affairs or the Midwest for Archaea Energy, said that a bridge will be over the wetlands. Buffers, which Frey said will be "essentially space and stormwater runoffs," will allow the water that runs off the plant to go directly into the earth and not disturb the stream or the wetlands.

During construction, an outside firm would in weekly to ensure regulations are being followed and that the stream and wetlands aren't being disturbed.

To address lighting concerns, downcast lighting will be used and there'll be an enclosed flare.

It was stated that the goal was the plant running by the end of 2025.

Andy Moore, who's the township's planning consultant, said that, around a week and a half ago additional information that was requested from the applicants was received.

Due to not having adequate time to review it, as well as the questions and concerns surrounding the project, Moore "strongly" suggested that no decision on the project that night.

"There're a lot of questions, a lot of concerns obviously from the public and a lot of information to go through and sort out to understand how this all works before we think you are ready to make a decision - whichever way that type of decision might go," he said.

Moore added that he'd also like to see some kind of landscaping plan, which is typically required of an application requiring site plan review as well as information showing a floor plan.

Resident Vicky Wagner said that the proposed project doesn't fir the master plan, adding that it "does not take into consideration the adjoined residents and our quality of life," which includes live theater, multiple biking events, outdoor dining, a distillery and other attractions.

Wagner said landfills usually produce "appreciable" amounts of gas within the first three years and peak within the first three to five years; now, after the peak, the RNG plant is being proposed.

"The residents and community do not benefit from this proposal - we do not add jobs, we do not get free or reduced electricity or energy," Wagner said.

Carla Kanger, who said the proposed plant will be as close as 800 feet to her property and "running 24/7," said there were several unanswered questions regarding noise, light, smells and glares.

Guests view plans for the proposed plant at an open house at Froehlich's

She added that she understands that this will be the second type of plant from Archaea

"Don't let them use your residents - us - as guinea pigs living this close to this plant," she said.

Mary McKee Duval, who has had family living on Basswood and Forest Lawn since 1854, said that the end of Basswood Road is in a small area and the plant is better suited for larger communities, like Niles off U.S. Highway 12 or Michigan City.

She added that the "construction and operation of a methane gas plant in a rural residential area could have detrimental effects on the health and wellbeing of local residents," with the plant emitting "various pollutants."

The proximity of such a facility to homes and schools increase the exposure to these to heroism pollutants leading to respiratory problems, cardiovascular disease and other health issues," she said.

It could also affect the farming industry , which relies on "clean air, water and soil."

Ron Jelinek said that, even though property may not be "contingent to this plant, the property values will go down."

He's owned two houses on Basswood, with both being sold under "distressed prices because of the landfill - nobody wanted to live there."

"You have to think of the broad picture and how it affects everybody and everything...We don't need to allow them in just so they can make more profit," he said.

A resident who said he was in favor of the plant said that "all that product is going into the air, wasted" and that Archaea is trying to design a plant that will be "productive" and that, at the end of the 20 years, the plant will be "completely disassembled and the property will be returned to original, or as close to the original site" or better - probably better than what it was."

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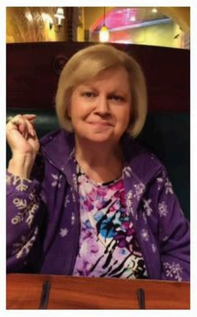
OBITUARIES

Nancy Jane Idkowiak

1951-2024



Nancy Jane Idkowiak, 72, formerly of New Buffalo, MI, passed away on Saturday – June 15, 2024 at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, IN.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI.

Nancy was born on Sept. 19, 1951 in Michigan City, IN to the late Paul and Elsie (Herrbach) Oselka. She was a 1969 graduate of New Buffalo High School and furthered her education at Western Michigan University receiving a bachelor's degree in teaching. Nancy was a teacher for many years and also a bookkeeper/receptionist at Oselka Snug Harbor Marina in New Buffalo.

Nancy is survived by her two children – Bridget (Eric) Fischer of Palm Beach Gardens, FL and Adam Idkowiak of Michigan City, IN; three grandchildren – Elijah Idkowiak, Brynlee Fischer and Callia Fischer; and three brothers – Ronald (Hollis) Oselka of New Buffalo, Rolland Oselka of Bridgman and Paul (Karen) Oselka of New Buffalo. Nancy is preceded in death by her husband - Roman Idkowiak and a sister – Suzanne Keller.

Services will be held at a later date.

DROWNING? THEN FLIP, FLOAT, AND FOLLOW!

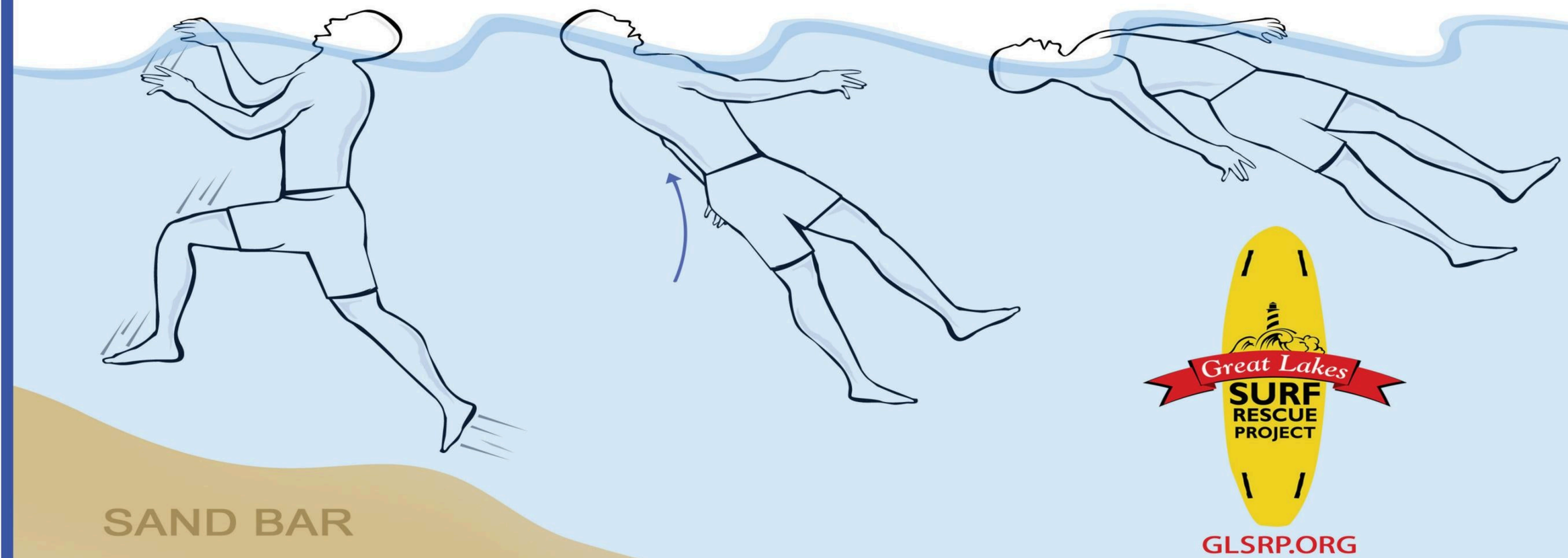
Flip over onto your back and float.

Float to:

- Keep head above water.
- Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
- Conserve your energy.

Follow the safest course to safety:

1. Do not fight the current.
2. Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
3. Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.



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JUNE 27-JULY 3, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Pay very close attention to how you feel during conversations. No matter what words are being said, it is the feeling that you get that will let you what message people really want to convey. There will be more than information to pick up on. It's the vibe that holds the truth, not the words.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

This is the week to move forward with friends and associates. You will be blessed with the courage to talk to people now. Make your moves to express your ideas and you will be making connections with people that will inspire you and turn your focus a bigger and better direction. Start with, hello.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Start investing in yourself and your ideas. Spend you hard earned money on yourself and putting it where it will benefit you the further down the road. Take time to investigate and understand the cost of situations over longer periods of time. Avoid doing things with short sightedness. Play the long game.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Stay true to your heart and your journey of self-discovery this summer. Don't let others dictate your sense of self and where any of your relationships should be. If it's not good, leave it behind but if there is hope, then give it time and space. Don't rush it, let partnerships develop slowly now.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

No matter how lighthearted or nonchalant the situation seems, be aware that some social situations can put you in a bad light. Even if nothing untoward is happening, people can easily get the wrong impression of things. This is not the time to be overly friendly or post things off handedly.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There is a very tempestuous energy coming your way this week and it will be easy to get caught up in turbulent social dynamics. When the dramatics start flaring, it's time to retreat. Pulling back and not commenting until both parties have exhausted themselves is wise. Enjoy the show.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

There is a very take-charge kind of energy radiating towards you this week. If people express apprehension or resistance, you will likely go forward without their help. This could easily lead to power struggles and isolation, if you don't take the time to include others and let them make decisions too.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Parental figures and those in authority may surprise you this week. Rather than being at their mercy or in trepidation, ask questions. Make an effort to understand guidelines and boundaries before you do things. There is a desire to get involved but do so when you are informed and invited.

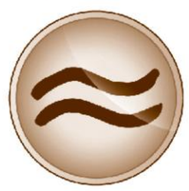
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Small conversations could lead to some big ideas now. Pay attention and allow information to sink in before you blow things off. This is the time to look for a higher understanding and make a more profound connection with home and intimate partners. Move deeper into commitments.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Financial issues may unexpectedly arise between you and a close partner. The issues may actually be beneficial for both of you but they may take some getting used to. There could be an increased cost or commitment up front but the long-term effects will prove profitable.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



No matter how long you have been with someone, you always manage to surprise them. This week is no different; you will be in full shocker mode. Even if you try to give warning, people somehow don't believe it or they just don't hear you. Think of ancient Greece and Cassandra.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

It will be easy to get caught up in your head and move to a place of nonaction, if you don't talk things over with others. Put your feeling, ideas and motivations out there to friends rather than, bottling up and ruminating over things. Bounce things around and don't get attached to anything.

Everything that is made beautiful and fair and lovely is made for the eye of one who sees. — *Rumi*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

7							5	8
5	8	6			7	3		
	1	3						
	7			4				
		8				4		3
	4		6	9				1
		9	3			7		5
6	5				4	9		

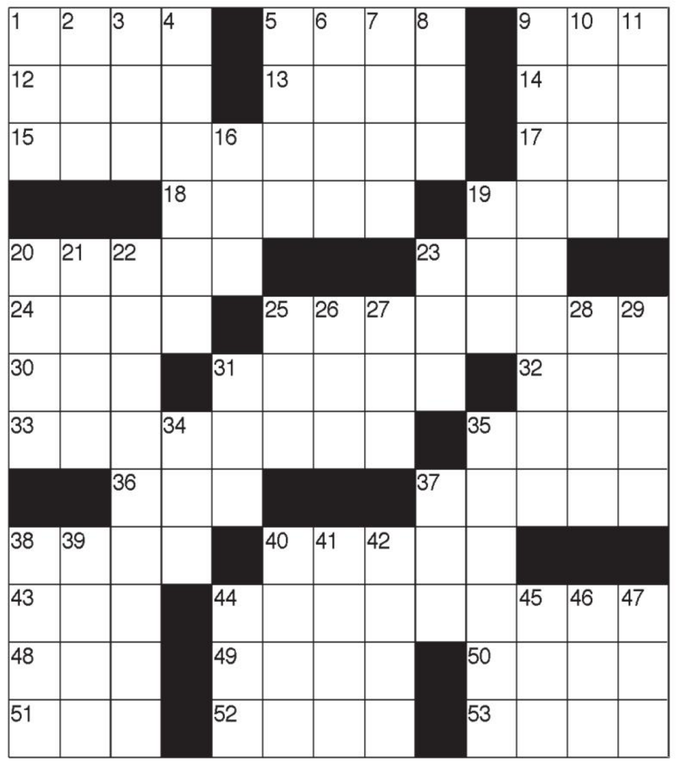
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Andes' cold higher region
5 Broad structural basin
9 Federal Trade Commission (abbr.)
12 Cork
13 Ass or donkey (Ger.)
14 Poetic contraction
15 Moon
17 Sheep's cry
18 Nothing (Fr.)
19 Musical beat
20 Amer. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (abbr.)
23 Arabic letter
24 Pipe (Scot.)
25 Image
30 Wing
31 Pole in Gaelic games
32 Alas
33 Time
35 Wild pig
36 Fr. pronoun
37 Doctrine
38 Explorer Ericson
40 Goodbye (Fr.)
43 Siamese twin
44 Sinuous
48 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
49 Braz. heron
50 Lade
51 River to the Sea of Azov
52 Shak. contraction
53 Quod ____ demonstrandu

DOWN

1 Additional postscript (abbr.)
2 Diminutive (suf.)
3 Cola
4 Means
5 Web
6 Hindu month
7 Balto-Slav
8 Beer
9 Gilt (2 words)
10 Tree
11 Supporter (suf.)
16 "Brave Bulls" author
19 Prepare leather
20 Academy (abbr.)
21 Philippines archipelago
22 Grouse
23 The (Ger.)
25 Fr. medieval tale
26 Kwa language
27 Barbie's boyfriend
28 Visible juncture
29 Fermented palm juice
31 Cents (abbr.)
34 Amer. Expeditionary Forces (abbr.)
35 Inlaid decoration
37 River into the North Sea
38 Head
39 Within (pref.)
40 Wild ox
41 Carplike fish
42 Religious image
44 Fast jet
45 Comparative (suf.)
46 "The Jungle Book" python
47 Eastern daylight time (abbr.)



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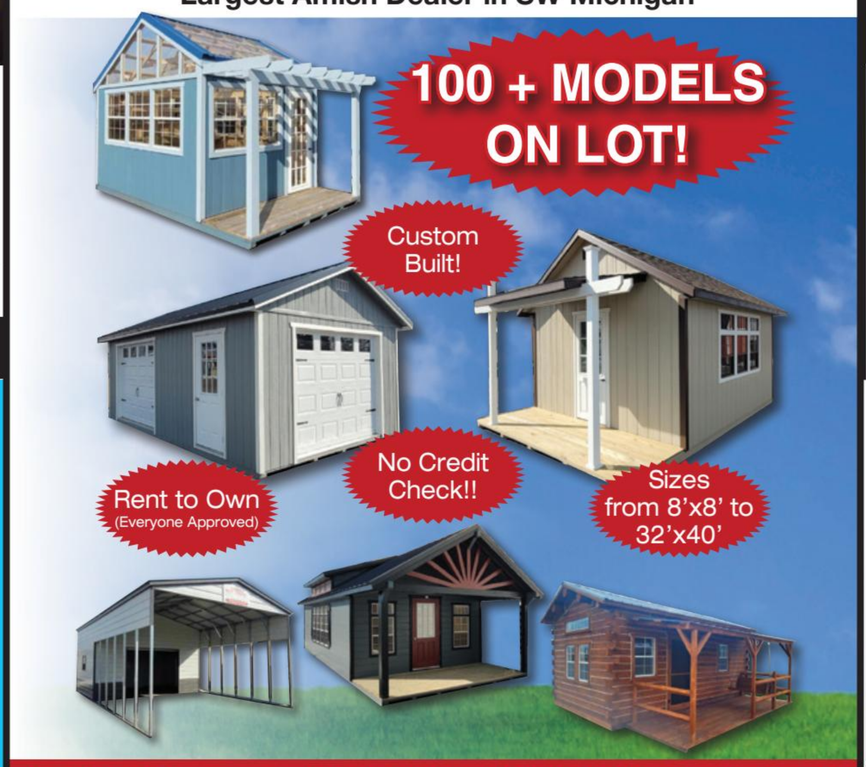

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PUBLIC NOTICES

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH

BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION:
ORDINANCE No 2024-114, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2022-104, REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF RENTAL PROPERTIES TO INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT OF A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN THE KITCHEN, AND TO ELIMINATE LIABILITY INSURANCE AND LANDLINE REQUIREMENTS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Michigan law, the Grand Beach Village Council adopted amendments to Ordinance 2022-14 on May 15, 2024, at a regular Village Council meeting. A summary of those amendments from Ordinance 2024-114 is as follows:

Section 5(4) of Ordinance 2022-104 was amended to eliminate and repeal the requirement to have a working landline phone to facilitate emergency first responder's location of the dwelling. Section 5(8)(iii) was added to Ordinance 2022-104 to require one fire extinguisher in the kitchen. The ordinance amendment also eliminated and repealed Section 3(12) of Ordinance 2022-104, which required the owner of property to have insurance and to name the Village of Grand Beach as an additional insured, along with keeping a certificate of insurance on file with the Village Clerk. This requirement was previously part of the Village's Rental Application.

The ordinance amendments will be effective immediately upon publication. The full text of the amendments can be reviewed by contacting the Village Clerk, Kimberly Wolnik, at 269-469-3141 or by email at clerk@grandbeach.org during regular business hours.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK
VILLAGE CLERK

PET OF THE WEEK

MILLIE

Millie (Siberian Husky & Golden Retriever Mix) is about six-months-old, spayed, about 45ish pounds, cat- and dog-friendly, but prefers to be around older children. Millie was good on the leash to begin with. She and her foster-sibling learned to walk well together. She has learned to sit, shake, couch, off, leave it, go potty, and more. he can live peacefully with cats. She is pretty well house-trained now, and progressing to be around unfamiliar men. Millie has progressed to almost approaching a few new people.

AVAILBLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

7	9	4	1	3	6	2	5	8
5	8	6	4	2	7	3	1	9
2	1	3	5	8	9	6	4	7
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9	6	8	7	1	5	4	2	3
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4	2	9	3	6	1	7	8	5
6	5	1	8	7	4	9	3	2
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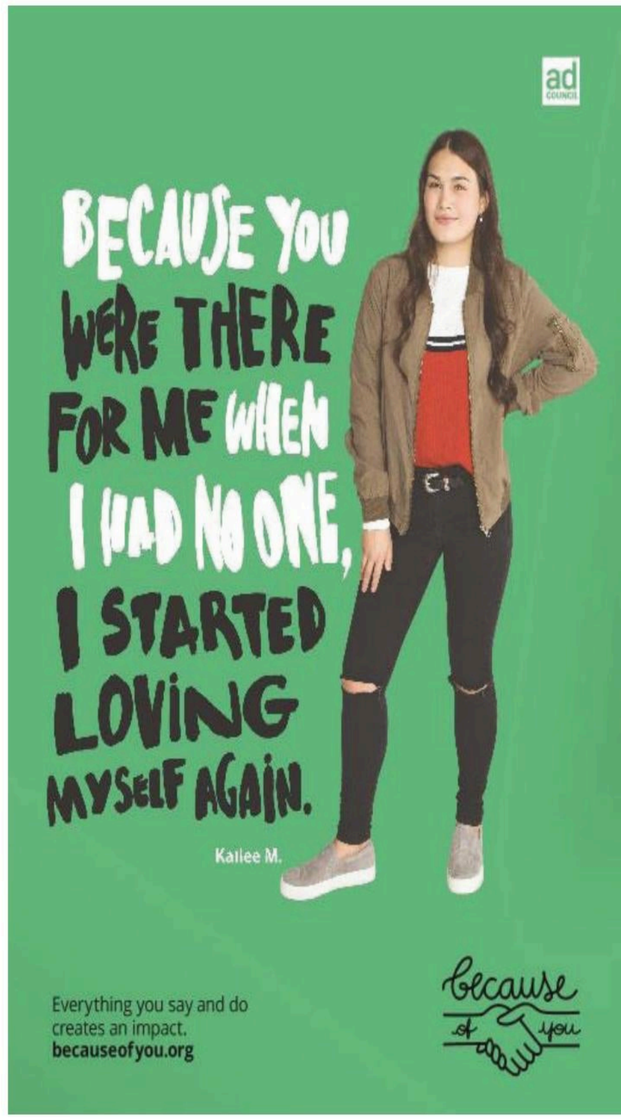

ad COUNCIL
BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE FOR ME WHEN I HAD NO ONE, I STARTED LOVING MYSELF AGAIN.
Kailee M.
Everything you say and do creates an impact.
becauseofyou.org
because of you

Annual French Market on tap for next month

The annual French Market, a Harbor Country marketplace, with local artisans, antiques, collectibles, attic treasurers, baked goods, refreshments and more, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 6, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway between Sawyer and Union Pier.

For over 15 years the Episcopal Church of the Mediator has hosted a summer "French Market" in the tradition of European churches, when the churchyard served as a source for community fellowship and commerce.

There are still openings for the limited number of vendor stalls available. Booth spaces are $20 and tables are $10 each. To register to be a French Market vendor, please contact Marilee Roth at 269-465-5155 or mjrothfarm@gmail.com or Candice Conley at 269-469-1441 or office@mediatorharbert.com. Proceeds from the bake sale and rummage sale booths support ministries of the Episcopal Church of the Mediator.

For more information, contact office@mediatorharbert.com or 269-469-1441. — STAFF REPORTS

Jungle fun at Converge

BY LARRY VON EBELER

One cannot escape from the bright, jungle accouterments at Converge this summer.

With spirited jungle effects, "Jungle Journey" is a children's summer school that has creative ideas on how to relate to God and the natural beauty of the jungle and all creatures.

Mrs. Cara Bettig was the inspirational director of this phenomenally popular summer program for the two sister churches: Converge Community Church in New Buffalo and Sawyer Highland Church in Sawyer.

For the first time, Converge has launched a summer vacation bible school in New Buffalo. They adopted a jungle theme, which transformed the church.

The 60 children were awe struck by this exposition of décor, which was Inspired by the seven seas of creation and their edification: Creation, Confusion, Catastrophe, Corruption, Christ, Cross and Consummation.

Upon the huge plate glass windows from the church's entrance were paintings of animals, which were superbly designed.

The entire church was decorated for the summer classes at the level of sophistication of a New York set design for students and staff alike.

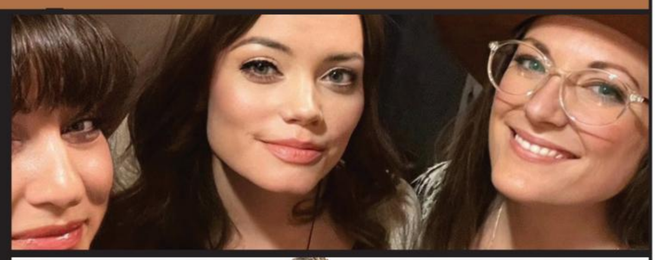
The celebration was a tall order for the first children's summer program. If the children weren't moved by the prospect of it before, they were after all of the film, food, games and study!

Stay tuned for Converge and Sawyer Highlands activities on Instagram and social media.

the ACORN
THREE OAKS MICHIGAN

Best live music in Harbor Country

UPCOMING SHOWS



The Backups
Midwest Made
SUN 6/30 7 P.M. ET

The Jayhawks
FRI 7/5 8 P.M. ET
SOLD OUT!

Resurrection Blues Band
Midwest Made
SUN 7/7 7 P.M. ET

10,000 Maniacs
FRI 7/12 8 P.M. ET
SOLD OUT!

Acorn Anywhere feat. The Bergamot
at Fernwood
SAT 7/13 7 P.M. ET

Help Hounds
Midwest Made
SUN 7/14 7 P.M. ET

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